

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS.

"*NEC TENUI PENNÂ.*"

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HOMEOPATHY.

Of the several methods adopted by writers to show up the fallacy of Hahnemann's dogmas, that by argument has had least effect on the laity, that by ridicule the most. Many reams of paper have been covered—we had almost said wasted—by logical expositions, such as the *Lancet* has recently spread before its readers. The scientific mind was long since satisfied as regards the philosophic weakness of the law of similars, while the experimental tests in the hospitals of Vienna and Paris have settled the inquiry for students of an empirical turn.

Practitioners are most concerned to convince the laity, who for their part are not at all interested in an argument which they look upon as technical, and therefore beyond ordinary comprehension. Born of the reaction against heroic medication, the gentle practice by infinitesimals has been acceptable to many, because, with the form and pretensions of a science, it seems to accomplish by pleasant means what the people have been accustomed to consider the peculiar effect of disagreeable ones. When the average patient has revolted against nauseous drugs, he does not stop to consider the scientific merits of Hahnemann's dream of similars, of potencies, of trituration before committing himself to the alluring dispenser of sugar pellets. If this dispenser is an enterprising man of business, with a good address and mother wit to back his brazen forehead, these dreams may get a wonderful

run for a while in a community disgusted with quinine and Crab Orchard salts. In the event of an indication arising for positive medication, a shrewd fellow can without detection resort to measures not set down in his professions, but based upon the broad sanction of experience.

The infatuated believers, whom argument can not reach, have been sometimes influenced by the touch of satire, as the eighteenth century was affected in its opinions more by the keen shaft of Voltaire's wit than by the very learned criticism of the philosophers. When the view that science takes of it is winged by humor and fancy, as in many parts of the "Breakfast Table" series, it may find its way through the most stolid intellect.

At the recent meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society Dr. Holmes read a poem in which he makes the following allusion:

"Munchausen's fellow-countryman unlocks
His new Pandora's globule-holding box.
And as King George inquired, with puzzled grin,
How—how the devil got the apple in,
So we ask how—with wonder-opening eyes—
'Such pygmy pills can hold such giant lies.'"

Fun like this will sometimes carry conviction to those who turn a deaf ear to the thunder of the London *Lancet*.

Ignorant of the fact that most ordinary ailments are self-limited, and that the tendency of specific fevers is toward recovery even when unaided by art, those who call homeopathy to their aid simply note that they and their neighbors sometimes get well with less discomfort when taking sweet infinitesimals than when nauseous drugs are administered. If in a liberal mood they

concede the curative power of the two "schools" to be equal, still they and their house prefer the pleasanter road to health. If a hater of shams and errors ventures in print to show that conclusions based upon such a narrow field of observation, taken too by one unused to the scientific method, are probably nearly always erroneous, and in this case certainly so, he gives an opportunity for gratuitous advertising, which a wide-awake homeopathist is quick to seize on. Well aware that martyr-blood is the seed of the Church, the quack rushes to the secular press, courting what he calls persecution. If a "regular" should descend into the arena with him, his fortune will be made. The sympathy that humanity usually has for the under-dog in the fight is counted on by the would-be object of the attack as a substantial gain, though the war of words may bring defeat to his side of the debate.

The Anglo-Saxon race is given to taking sides on every question. If a contest, however insignificant in reality, be kept up long enough to attract general notice, we are apt to array ourselves as if it were a public matter. Sometimes it is the Tichborne claimant, or it may be a war between foreigners, or a fasting doctor. All England and its provinces have lately been interested in the controversy which grew out of the consultation over Lord Beaconsfield that Dr. Quain had with Dr. Kidd, who was at one time a professed homeopathist, though now and for several years practicing "regular" medicine. It appears the doctors have been disposed to condemn Dr. Quain, while the Queen is about to reward him with a title. Our English exchanges have been full of the debate, and in its course have gone over the whole ground of homeopathic doctrine and practice, as well as the ethics of consultation. The most clear statement of the entire case that has met our eyes will be found in the letter of our London correspondent. The bitterness displayed toward Dr. Quain by the *Lancet* has been paralleled later by attacks upon Mr. Ernest Hart, because of the course he took in this affair as editor of the

British Medical Journal. So far as our intercourse with doctors enables us to judge, Mr. Hart expressed in his editorials the opinion of many fair-minded men when he maintained that Sir William Jenner had been too punctilious in declining the consultation, and Dr. Quain had done all that the most exacting censor had a right to demand. Our correspondent hints at a private grievance as the cause of the onslaught of the *Lancet*. It looks to us as if personal prejudice had much to do with the strictures on the part taken by Mr. Hart. Now that the smoke and dust of the battle have been blown away, one who was in the thick of the fight sends us this account of it. As the writer suggests, it will be found to contain an anti-homeopathic argument that will reach the most indifferent thinker. At the bedside of one whose life is of national importance, responsibility presses the medical attendant down to the solid rock of true science, where alone he can feel his foothold sure. Jugglery and fantastic speculation can not bear the fierce light which beats upon the man who has a charge like this. In his extremity Dr. Kidd, with commendable candor, distinctly disavowed having used homeopathy in this case, and declared his readiness to adopt any measures which the better science of Dr. Quain might dictate.

Doctors who have gone over the whole field of medical science, and investigated the claims of the so-called "systems," finding nothing in them worth having which general science may not include, are disposed to regard the "system-monger" as either a fool or a quack, and are slow to receive him into the fold after he has once profited by professions of an exclusive "system."

There are many homeopathists who are honest; and when one makes a public recantation like Dr. Kidd's, it should be taken at its face-value, and the newly enlightened be recognized as so far worthy professional affiliation. As long as the motives of men are beyond our ken, if they speak and act fairly we must take them at their word.

THE editor of the Medical Record has been making a psychological study, which, because of its appropriateness to the foregoing, is quoted in full:

THE expansion of the homeopathic mind is well illustrated by the course of our esteemed contemporary, the New York Medical (*née* Homeopathic) Times. Since it dropped the title "homeopathic" it has been studying to exclude that objectionable word altogether from its columns. And it has even been referring to the American Institute of Homeopathy as the "Institute," adding of course the annual announcement that it is the "oldest national medical organization in the country." The Times still thinks us trammelled by the absurd traditions of the past, and we think the Times and its contributors ought to learn pathology. But progress is affecting every thing. It has affected our esteemed contemporary, and we will yet see it print reports of our Pathological Society. The editors announce that they will practice hereafter as regular physicians. The rule (not law) of similars will be used in selecting remedies only when such rule seems advisable. The homeopathic materia medica, we are told, is largely an imaginative work; it contains a frightful bulk of non-essentials and unproved statements. They believe in no medical dogmas, and assert that medical knowledge and skill are the only tests of the physician. Homeopathy as a distinct school of medicine has ceased to exist among educated men. This is what the Times says, or means, and we can say no more.

AN act has been passed for the benefit of Chicago, requiring an inspection and approval by a health commissioner of plans of every house to be built, in respect to ventilation, sewerage, and plumbing. Plumbers' work must be inspected and approved. Failing to meet the commissioner's approval a building will be prohibited and plumbing work condemned.

ERRATUM.—In our last week's issue, page 12, second sentence, occurs the following appalling blunder: *Sodium bicarbonate*, CO_2 , Na° is driven off and sodium chloride, CO_2 , remains in solution. The clause should read: *Sodium bicarbonate*, H Na C O_3 , C O_2 is driven off and sodium chloride remains in solution.

In the dog-days even the best of proof-readers sometimes nods.

Correspondence.

LONDON LETTER.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Editors Louisville Medical News:

Circumstances have lately occurred here in connection with the death of Lord Beaconsfield which have raised a professional question of large importance, of which no doubt some of the echoes have reached you. I pass over the details of Lord Beaconsfield's illness, with which the public have been more than associated, in order to outline the position at the present moment which has arisen from Dr. Quain having met in consultation Dr. Kidd, a reputed homeopath, who was Lord Beaconsfield's medical adviser. Dr. Kidd, it should be stated, is a physician not attached to any of our hospitals, except that he has, I believe, held some sort of position in connection with the homeopathic hospital. He has for many years done a great general practice, as it is called, and for many years was an avowed homeopath. He had very long ago disavowed infinitesimal doses, and had long since taken the position that while the ordinary rational principles of medicine accepted by the profession at large are those upon which the practice of medicine must be based, there are collateral principles concerned in the administration of drugs and their action on disease which the profession at large have not adequately recognized, and upon which homeopaths (so called) were in modern times first to lay sufficient stress. Thus he accepts the rule that opposites are cured by opposites, and that the cause must be removed in order to remove the effect; but he believes, with Hippocrates, that there is a law, however it may be interpreted, in virtue of which a considerable number of remedies relieve in full doses the conditions which they produce in small doses, and that in this sense there is also in therapeutics a law of similars. Thus he points out remedies which in large doses produce sweating, and in small doses check sweating; remedies which in large doses produce narcotism, in small doses produce excitement; remedies which in large doses produce giddiness may in light doses be used to cure giddiness; and he points to numerous examples in the materia-medica books of Bartholow, Sidney Ringer, and of Phillips in which this so-called law of similars is accepted and adopted in practice. Thus he claims to be an eclectic physician.

Now we have in England a great horror of eclectics, a wholesome fear of quacks, a great dislike to special pathists of every kind, and a great unwillingness to credit them either with goodness or with honesty. Thus many suspicions cling to any person who has at any time of his career adopted any special title, or who does not entirely repudiate all connection or sympathy with the special sect in medicine, and this suspicion hangs about Dr. Kidd. Dr. Kidd for some years attended three of the members of the last Cabinet; and thus three men of most powerful mind and political leaders of their period—Lord Beaconsfield and the two who contested the Tory leadership after his death, Lord Salisbury and Earl Cairns, Lord Chancellor.

When Lord Beaconsfield was ill, during the congress at Berlin, Dr. Kidd was telegraphed for to attend him; and when he was taken ill on this occasion he was quickly sent for. As the illness began to assume a serious, dangerous character, the Queen and other of Lord Beaconsfield's friends were desirous that further consultation should be had. Sir William Jenner was applied to by Dr. Kidd, who declined to meet him, writing the following letter:

Holding, as you and I do, different views as to practical treatment, I do not think Lord Beaconsfield's interest could in any way be served by our meeting in consultation; on the contrary, it could not be without risk to him.

This subsequently transpired, but it was not known in the profession until later, and, as it turned out, however Sir Wm. Jenner might have been distinguished on other accounts, in declining to meet Dr. Kidd he was not justified on this account, as the sequel will show.

Lord Barrington, the Queen's Chamberlain, called upon Dr. Quain, informing him that it was the Queen's wish that Lord Beaconsfield should have further advice, and that a physician should be called in in consultation with Dr. Kidd, without acquainting him, however, that there had at any time been a question of consulting any other physician than himself. Dr. Quain replied that he feared he could not meet Dr. Kidd, as he was reputed to be a homeopathic practitioner, and Lord Beaconsfield was understood to be under homeopathic treatment. To this Lord Barrington replied that Dr. Quain was in error; that Dr. Kidd had for many years abjured homeopathy, and that he was treating Lord Beaconsfield by the usual remedies in the usual manner. Dr.

Quain thereupon called on Sir George Burrows, the last president of the College of Physicians—the most prudent, sagacious, and public-spirited of the leaders of medicine—and on Sir Risdon Bennett, the then president of the College of Physicians, and stated to them the facts. Dr. Kidd is a qualified M.D. of a British university and a registered practitioner, and both Sir George Burrows and Sir Risdon Bennett were of opinion that, this being so, if Dr. Quain were authoritatively assured and satisfied that Dr. Kidd was treating Lord Beaconsfield upon rational principles, and with ordinary medicines in ordinary doses, he would not be justified in refusing his assistance in consultation. Dr. Kidd gave in writing the assurance that he was and always had been treating Lord Beaconsfield with pharmacopoeial remedies in pharmacopoeial doses, and upon the ordinary scientific principles of medicine; that he had for many years not been what was called a homeopathist, that he had no faith in infinitesimal doses, and that he only used medicines as every physician used them, his practice agreeing with such men as Ringer, Wood of Philadelphia, Phillips of Westminster Hospital, and others, who all agree that there is a certain law of similars withal. A considerable number of medicines are now known to cure in large doses symptoms which they produce in small doses, and *vice versa*. The assurance which he gave that he was treating and always had been treating Lord Beaconsfield according to the ordinary principles and practice was supplemented by a written undertaking faithfully to follow all the directions which Dr. Quain might give, and to carry out his orders sincerely and in all respects.

Under these circumstances Dr. Quain met Dr. Kidd in consultation; and he had the further approval in doing so of Sir James Paget and of Sir Thomas Watson, who may be considered to be the official heads of medicine and surgery in this country, and, I think I may add, of that enormous bulk of the medical profession. For my own part, I must say at once that, having very extensive personal acquaintance with the leading practitioners of medicine, I have hardly found one who could condemn the conduct of Dr. Quain in this matter.

At the next meeting of the College of Physicians, as many misstatements were rife, Dr. Quain reported what had occurred, by permission of the president. This happened to be also the meeting for the election of a new president for the College, and it had

been arranged among the Fellows that Sir William Jenner, who had refused to stand for the presidency five years before, but who had now consented should be elected. The election of Sir William Jenner, it is needless to say, was a foregone conclusion. He had been urged to accept the presidency of the College in the strongest manner five years before, when Sir Risdon Bennett was elected; and the moment it became known that Sir William Jenner would now consent to be president his election was a matter of certainty; and there was of course no opposition, except that a slight canvass had been made for Sir Risdon Bennett, who was desirous, it was understood, of exceeding the usual term of five years by getting one year's additional appointment, in order to enable him to preside over the Committee of the International Medical Congress. The Fellows, however, were not at all disposed to prolong Sir Risdon Bennett's term of office, and Sir William Jenner was elected, as had been arranged some months previously.

At this meeting, however, Dr. Quain having made his statement, Sir William Jenner, who is a singularly impetuous and irascible person, thought it well to rise, and, with some considerable excitement, to say that he must be excused for saying a word, but that if Dr. Quain was right he (Sir William Jenner) was wrong, and deserved the censure of the College. Now, as a matter of fact, it was right that Sir Wm. Jenner was wrong—wrong at any rate in the reason which he alleged, if the course was justifiable upon another basis. It was clearly and distinctly not a fact that the treatment which was being pursued in Lord Beaconsfield's case was such as to render consultation useless or unprofitable. The treatment was by calomel, by amyl nitrite—by ordinary medicines in ordinary doses, and a consultation could have been, and must have been, not less profitable in this than in any other case to which the physician could be called. Sir Wm. Jenner had a right, if he chose, to decline to meet Dr. Kidd on personal grounds. He might, if he chose, consider that he was scientifically dishonest, or that he was for any other reason objectionable to him; that he declined to meet him; and in that view there would be many, and there are still many, who are of opinion that by refusing to meet Dr. Kidd Sir Wm. Jenner conferred a benefit on his profession.

It is of course open to argument whether this is not a somewhat bigoted view. A physician is called upon in such cases to execute

a public duty, and for my own part I can see nothing whatever in Dr. Kidd's position which could have justified any one on personal grounds from meeting him; still less do I think any physician, under circumstances of such importance, and where a life of such value was at stake, declining on a scruple which was at least dubiously grounded and imperfectly established, was justified, I say, in refusing to render necessary aid—aid of incalculable importance to a life which the whole nation so deeply valued.

It happened, however, that for private reasons which are known in the profession, but into which it is needless to enter, the *Lancet* has a great grudge against Dr. Quain, and it took this opportunity of making a violent personal attack, and hounding on the general practitioners with the cry that he had met a homeopath and betrayed the profession. At first this journal affected to disbelieve that Dr. Quain had taken the advice of any one, and asked with incredulity who were the persons who had recommended the course which he adopted. When the names were announced it shifted its tactics; and refusing to place any responsibility on these distinguished leaders of the profession, whom it dared not insult and attack, as it thought itself safe in the case of Dr. Quain alone, and it endeavored to rouse bitter and vindictive feelings against him who in the opinion of the great mass of the profession deserves the highest praise for the clear, sound view which he took of a public duty, and for having saved the medical profession from the odium of refusing, on the ground of a mere empty formula which had no application to the case, to render his assistance so sorely needed, and the chance of preserving an illustrious life. It was not true that Dr. Quain had met a homeopath; it was not true that he had sacrificed any of the principles of rational medicine or any of the honor of physicians. What he had done was to require an unequivocal statement from the physician in charge that he was not treating the patient only on homeopathic principles; that he was prepared to fully abide by and would follow in every respect his directions for the welfare of the patient. He had forestalled one of the ablest physicians by the bedside of the patient, and by so doing he had clearly inflicted the severest possible blow upon the pretensions of so-called homeopaths. He had declared his contempt for, and his disbelief in, homeopathy. He required a written repudiation of homeopathic doctrines or treatment from the so-

called homeopath in attendance, and, having secured that, in the face of the world he had placed rational medicine in its true position as the savior of life; as the honest, open, merciful intervener in all cases where medical help was needed. If any man ever deserved credit for courage, clear-sightedness, faithfulness to the great principles of medical duty, and a recognition of what was due from the profession to the public, Dr. Quain was the man, and the whole profession recognize that claim.

An attempt has been made by a few insignificant persons to dispute that position, and to misplace the argument by trying to rouse the smoldering animosities and the prejudices of sour-minded men; but that attempt has utterly failed, and the present result is that homeopathy has received a blow from which it will never recover, while rational medicine stands before the world justified by Dr. Quain, both in its scientific claims and in its claim to respect and admiration as a profession which at once knows its own duties and its own claims, and is mindful of the claims of homeopathy. The Medical Times and the British Medical Journal have alike supported Dr. Quain in the view which he has taken, and the whole profession are with him in that view, with the exception of a few persons who have allowed themselves to be misled by the clamor of the Lancet, and who follow what is supposed to be a popular cause. In the end, however, the class is too large-minded and too sensible to allow itself to be led away by any such clamor; and the result has been already that a few persons who have gone about privately endeavoring to stir up something like joint action against Dr. Quain among medical students have signally failed and met with the rebuke which their conduct deserved.

It is not unlikely that the whole circumstance may be misinterpreted abroad, especially in America, by American physicians, who, reading the American reprint of the Lancet, see only the misrepresentations current in its pages, and without knowing all the real facts of the case. This letter is intended to put forward the whole truth of the matter, and to let you know what the profession here has really done and thought of in the matter. The Lancet vainly endeavored to prosecute a personal animosity under the cry of the public good, and vainly endeavored to drag the profession through the mud. It has, it is true, signally failed; but that failure may not be as evident abroad as it is in Great Britain.

Medical Societies.

MITCHELL (IND.) DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Twenty-third Annual Convention of this society met in Columbus, June 28, 29, and 30, 1881.

This meeting, in point of numbers, was probably the most successful that the society has ever had, over one hundred members being present. It was also successful in obtaining a goodly number of interesting papers. The only flaw we could find was in the meagerness of the discussions. The presiding officer, through an ill-grounded fear that there was no time to be lost, cut off the debate from nearly all the papers read on the last day. There was consequently a great deal of dissatisfaction expressed on the part of many of the members at the unnecessary hurry.

The address of the retiring president, Dr. J. W. Gerrish, of Seymour, was a thoroughly-considered paper of many pages. It evoked an interesting discussion on what the doctor called Typho-malarial Fever.

The following papers were read before the society:

Carbolic-acid Poisoning, by Dr. W. F. Hamer, of Jonesville. This paper will appear in the NEWS.

Constipation, by Dr. J. F. Wright, of Columbus. This was discussed by Drs. Groves, Banker, and others.

Puerperal Eclampsia, by Dr. E. P. Easley, of New Albany. The heroic treatment of Dr. E. (sixty grains of chloral and one grain of morphia at a dose) would have elicited some very useful discussion had not the management of affairs been so irregularly conducted. Instead of having discussion immediately following the paper, it was postponed for the afternoon session in order to get in some other business. Drs. Vance and Carson made some few remarks on it, but that was all. In the afternoon of course no more interest was felt in the subject and it was dropped. The paper was a most interesting one, and has been turned over to the NEWS for publication.

Questions on Ophthalmic Surgery, which the General Surgeon must be Prepared to Answer: a Lecture by Dr. Reuben A. Vance, of Cincinnati. This was a very instructive lesson on malpractice and chicanery on the part of specialists. It was believed that specialists are not as thoroughly versed in general medicine as should be required. The lecture, at the request of the society, will be written and published in pamphlet form.

Pelvic Cellulitis, by Dr. T. S. Galbraith, of Seymour. This paper, which will appear in the NEWS in due time, gave rise to a very instructive discussion.

Cholelithiasis, by Dr. L. S. Oppenheimer, of Seymour. An exhaustive digest of the diagnosis and treatment of this disease.

Poisoning from Rat-bites, by A. J. Banker, of Columbus. This report, which will also appear in the NEWS, will be found to be exceedingly interesting, and several original observations are noted therein. It was thoroughly discussed by several of the members.

The Effect of the Mind in the Treatment of Disease, by W. H. Lopp, of Columbus. This useful paper will be published in the NEWS in a few weeks.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Dr. G. W. Burton, of Mitchell.

Vice-president—Dr. J. B. Grove, of Columbus.
Secretary and Treasurer—Dr. C. E. Loughlin, of Orleans.

The honor given to Dr. Burton is especially gratifying to all members of the society. He has labored more earnestly and energetically for this society, as well as for the State Society and the Tri-States Society, than any other man in all the ranks, and is certainly fitted to preside over the organization that he has built up almost alone.

The next place and time of meeting will be at New Albany, 4th Tuesday in December, 1881.

LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS.

Being a Portion of the President's Address, S. W. Ky. Medical Association.

[By J. W. Singleton, M.D.]

I shall not consider the unsanitary condition of our large towns and cities, which require the best work of councils and health boards to effect their proper cleansing and purification. It is for the people in our smaller towns and post villages, at cross-roads and in rural districts, all along the byways of life, that we would have watchful eyes to discover, and the strong arm of legal sanitation to remove, every thing that may be calculated to engender disease. There is a popular idea in existence that "living in the country is always the healthiest." There never was a greater mistake. During my medical experience of over twenty-five years I am free to confess that I have seen as many local causes of disease beneath, around, and in farm-houses as I have ever seen any where else, in proportion to the population to be affected by such poisonous surroundings. All country- and village-homes should be cleansed and kept safe habitations for the duties and delights of domestic life. We should have local health-boards clothed with full power for promoting the health of the people. We should have efficient laws enacted by wise State and National governments to sustain the action of the local boards.

The food that we eat and the water we drink should all be subjected to the most careful inspection and scrutiny, that the life may not be poisoned at the fountain. We should have our whole domestic system protected by wise sanitary regulations, and the prosperity of the State substantially advanced by the purification of our homes and the correction of the evil habits of our citizens, that our beloved country may take its stand among the nations of the earth as not only the most beautiful, but the healthiest and happiest nation beneath the heavens. I hate despotism in political affairs as cordially and earnestly as any man can hate it, but in the all-important matter of protecting my fellow-citizens against preventable diseases and premature death I care not how strong the powers of the State and National governments are exercised, so that they are efficient in securing the public safety and happiness. . . .

Any system of statesmanship, so-called, which does not contemplate the sanitary protection and happiness of every citizen from the cradle to the grave, is wanting in many elements of enlightenment. It is not justly entitled to the loyalty, confidence, and obedience of good people, and should be swept away. Such a government is not worth living for, and is not worth fighting and dying for; it is a sham, and should be abolished as peacefully as possible, or made to conform

to the responsibilities of its paternal duties to those whom it is in duty bound to shield and protect. If we are compelled as citizens to obey the laws and support our common country, our country must shield and succor us under all circumstances of health or disease to the fullest extent of its power.

Formulary.

COMPOUND DIGESTIVE POWDER.

(*Pulvis digestivus compositus.*)

This is an old preparation, for which formulas are to be found in the older pharmacopœias and treatises. We append two of these. The first is from the Military Pharmacopœia of Copenhagen, 1808, and the second from Guibourt, 1834:

Sulphate of potassa.....	℥ ij;	64.00 Gm.;
Rhubarb.....	℥ j;	32.00 "
Sal ammoniac.....	℥ iv;	16.00 "

Mix. Dose, half a dram.

Powd. anise seed.....	} aa ʒ xij;	48.00 Gm.;
Powd. coriander seed..		
Powd. fennel seed.....		
Powd. cinnamon seed..		
Powd. lemon peel.....	aa ʒ iij;	52.00 "
Powd. orange peel.....	} aa ʒ j;	4.00 "
Powd. rhubarb.....		
Powd. cloves.....		
Powd. sugar.....	℥ viij;	256.00 "

Mix. Dose, fifteen to forty-five grains.

—A. K. H., Phila., in *Druggists Circular*.

STRYCHNIA AS A PHYSIOLOGICAL ANTIDOTE TO ALCOHOL.

Dr. Luton (*Bull. de Thérap.*) claims that by frequent experiment he has demonstrated that strychnia is the best physiological antidote in cases of chronic alcoholism. He has used hypodermic injections of the sulphate of strychnia in delirium tremens with markedly favorable results, relieving tetanic rigidity and quieting delirium.

This tends to confirm the truth of the stories about strychnia-eating in California noticed some five years since. According to reports made in evident good faith, the practice was resorted to by hard drinkers, and had become almost a fine art.—*Drug. Circular*.

"CHLORALUM" FOR DISINFECTING PURPOSES.

Powd. alum.....	℥ x;	320.00 Gm.;
Solution of chloride of calcium	fl. ʒ xvj;	512.00 fl.Gm.;
Water enough to complete.....	fl. ʒ c;	3,200.00 "

Dissolve the alum in about four fifths of the water by the aid of heat; add the solution of chloride of calcium; filter, and add enough water through the filter to complete the quantity directed.—*Ibid.*

GLYCEROLE OF ARNICA.

Fluid extract of arnica.....	10.0 parts;
Glycerin.....	20.0 "

For chapped skin, insect-bites, etc.

—*Pharmacist and Chemist.*

Pharmaceutical.

GLYCERIN — ITS GROWING SCARCITY. — The Oil, Paint, and Drug Reporter says that the growing scarcity of glycerin with its consequent advance in price is the result of a combination of two causes—an increased demand for it and a falling off in its production. The increase in demand is to be found in the general use now made of glycerin in medicine and pharmacy, and the large quantities required for the manufacture of nitro-glycerin and oleomargarine. The falling off in supply is to be accounted for by the fact that the candle-makers of Europe are called upon to furnish the whole world with glycerin, and as the candle is rapidly giving way before the cheaper and more elegant kerosene lamp, there are fewer candles manufactured, and of course a diminution in the means for the supply of glycerin. Efforts have been made to obtain the article from the waste lye of the soap-makers' boilers, but the process of manufacture here is too expensive for practical application. Besides rosin, which is a constant ingredient of all the cheaper soaps, destroys the glycerin, or at least renders this means of supply unavailable. Obviously a substitute for glycerin must be found or a new source for its cheap supply discovered.

HOANG-NAN. — The Oil and Drug News thus comments upon this new drug brought to the notice of the profession by Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich.:

HOANG-NAN. — This is one of the latest introductions, and if a tithe of what is claimed for it prove true, it will merit a very important place in medicine. The reports show it to be possessed of very remarkable properties. Leprosy, rabies, poisoning from bites of venomous reptiles, and paralysis are some of the affections which it is claimed have been relieved by this wonderful drug. These affections have all been heretofore considered incurable, which fact is one of the strongest reasons that the claims of the drug should be further tested in cases which may be presented.

So say we. The man who shall discover a remedy for any one of these maladies will immortalize his name and gain the gratitude of mankind.

DR. HAMMOND, of New York, uses instead of bromides a teaspoonful, well diluted, of a mixture of one dram of bromine in eight ounces of water. Results are like those of the alkaline bromides, barring the acne and ulcers that sometimes attend the latter.

Miscellany.

EXTRACT from a poem read by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, June 8, 1881, at the Centennial Meeting, Massachusetts Medical Society (Boston Med. and Surg. Journal):

Hour after hour the busy day has found
The good physician on his lonely round;
Mansion and hovel, low and lofty door,
He knows, his journeys every path explore,
Where the cold blast has struck with deadly chill
The sturdy dweller on the storm-swept hill,
Where by the stagnant marsh the sickening gale
Has blanched the poisoned tenants of the vale,
Where crushed and maimed the bleeding victim lies,
Where madness raves, where melancholy sighs,
And where the solemn whisper tells too plain
That all his science, all his art, were vain.

How sweet his fireside when the day is done
And cares have vanished with the setting sun!
Evening at last its hour of respite brings
And on his couch his weary length he flings.
Soft be thy pillow, servant of mankind,
Lulled by an opiate Art could never find;
Sweet be thy slumber,—thou has earned it well,—
Pleasant thy dreams! Clang! goes the midnight bell!

Darkness and storm! the home is far away
That waits his coming ere the break of day!
The snow-clad pines their wintry plumage toss,—
Doubtful the frozen stream his road must cross;
Deep lie the drifts, the slanted heaps have shut
The hardy woodman in his mountain hut,—
Why should thy softer frame the tempest brave?
Hast thou no life, no health, to lose or save?
Look! read the answer in his patient eyes,—
For him no other voice when suffering cries;
Deaf to the gale that all around him blows,
A feeble whisper calls him,—and he goes.

Or seek the crowded city—summer's heat
Glares burning, blinding, in the narrow street,
Still, noisome, deadly sleeps the envenomed air,
Unstirred the yellow flag that says "Beware!"
Tempt not thy fate,—one little moment's breath
Bears on its viewless wings the seeds of death;
Thou at whose door the gilded chariots stand,
Whose dear-bought skill unclasps the miser's hand,
Turn from thy fatal quest, nor cast away
That life so precious; let a meaner prey
Feed the destroyer's hunger; live to bless
Those happier homes that need thy care no less!

Smiling he listens; has he then a charm
Whose magic virtues peril can disarm?
No safeguard his; no amulet he wears,
Too well he knows that Nature never spares
Her truest servant, powerless to defend
From her own weapons her unshrinking friend.
He dares the fate the bravest well might shun,
Nor asks reward save only Heaven's "Well done!"

Such are the toils, the perils that he knows,
Days without rest and nights without repose,
Yet all unheeded for the love he bears
His art, his kind, whose every grief he shares.

FIVE hundred children have been taken from the public schools at Atlanta, Ga., on account of the presence of a mysterious disease.

THE KENTUCKY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE—COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.—The Kentucky School of Medicine held its annual commencement at Macauley's Theater on Tuesday, June 28th. The salutatory address was delivered in excellent style by Mr. James F. Duncan, of Texas. It was well received and very creditable. This was followed by a well-timed speech of Mr. Andrew Barnett, as president of the Board of Regents, in which he conferred upon eighty-five graduates the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and presented the certificates. In conferring the degrees Judge Barnett said the young doctors need not be afraid of not making a living, as there were millions of people on the globe, and all of them likely to take their medicine, and, like Col. Sellers's eye-water, "the more they took the more they would need."

Prof. John Ochterlony then delivered the address on behalf of the Faculty. Prof. Ochterlony gave a short sketch of twenty years' practice; how the science appeared to grow more noble and sublime, the scope and possibilities greater, and the field of labor increased. The improvements in the methods of teaching have also been largely increased, and the science more easily learned. He then reviewed the different branches of medicine, and the difficulties, dangers, and nature of each.

After the awarding of the prizes the valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Geo. White, of Pennsylvania.

THE PEPSIN TREATMENT OF TAPEWORMS.—A French physician has recently devised a plan for killing the tapeworm which is unique. Foregoing the usual way of harassing him with anthelmintics and cathartics, he proposes to digest him by means of pepsin. It is supposed that the tapeworm is able to live in the intestine because of his power to resist the action of the gastric juice, which is well nigh spent before it reaches him; but when this is reinforced by a liberal allowance of pepsin given for several days, he succumbs to its catalytic power. Thus the victim of tapeworm is to some extent indemnified for the peptones he has lost during the growth of the worm, by receiving in return peptonized tapeworm.

This treatment was tried on a child who had passed segments of a large tapeworm. The pepsin was given in forty-five-grain doses daily for five consecutive days. The child experienced no harm from the drug. Then a proper dose of sulphate pelletierine

with castor oil was given, and the discharges showed no signs of the worm. Subsequent experiments with vegetable pepsin (papaine) gave promising results.

This is certainly a scientific mode of treatment, and when we consider its compensating quality our admiration for physiological medicine is raised to the highest pitch.

"OLD MEN" IN THE "GOOD OLD TIMES."—It is very pertinently remarked in *The American* that there is one point which is too frequently overlooked by writers on historical cases of longevity—the singular difference between our estimation of an "old man" and that of our forefathers. "Old John of Gaunt, time-honored Lancaster," died at fifty-nine; so did James I. Henry VIII only reached fifty-three. The Huguenot Admiral Coligny, whose "hoary hair, all dabbled o'er with blood," is mentioned by Macaulay, and whom his earlier biographer, Lord Huntingdon, represents as a very old man, was slain at fifty-three, when in these days of Moltkes, Gortschakoffs, Gladstones, Beaconsfields, Dufaures, Broughams, Lyndhursts, a man is supposed to be rather on the juvenile side. In point of fact, for our ancestors a man of fifty was old; with us the limit is nearer eighty. It is legitimately to be inferred from this fact that in the first place the average duration of life was shorter in past time than it is nowadays; in the second, that the chances of error in accounts of alleged centenarians were infinitely greater—so that if a man of eighty or eighty-five called himself one hundred or one hundred and ten, his story would be exceedingly apt to be believed.

THE latest news from Vienna is that all the five cases of exsection of the pylorus performed by Billroth and his pupils are dead except the last, which we reported two weeks ago as executed by Wolfer. Death was due not to the consequences of the operation, but to a recurrence of the cancer in other parts of the abdominal cavity.

THE Massachusetts Medical Society has just held its centennial meeting. In honor of the special occasion the programme contained much that was historical and social and very little that was scientific. The lady doctors are still kept knocking at the door.

A NEW clinical lectureship on nervous diseases will be instituted by the French Ministry for Prof. Charcot.

Selections.

On Milk-indigestion in Young Children.—By Eustace Smith, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to his Majesty the King of the Belgians; Physician to the East London Children's Hospital, and to the Victoria Park Hospital for Diseases of the Chest (British Medical Journal). Concluded from last week:

A little girl ten months old, with four teeth, very thin and weakly-looking, had been weaned at the age of eight months. Since that time she had been unable to digest milk, vomiting it at once whenever it was given to her. For nearly two months, therefore, she had been fed on two dessertspoonfuls of farinaceous food made with water into a thick cream, and given every two hours with a spoon. She refused to take it from a bottle. Twice a day the food was made with beef tea instead of with water. After a meal the child often vomited, but when this happened she was immediately fed again. The result of such a diet was to be expected. The child, although ten months old, was exceedingly weak and could not sit up. She was becoming rapidly thinner. She slept very little, whining and crying the greater part of the night. She was said to show no signs of abdominal pain; but the bowels acted three times a day and the motions were relaxed and horribly offensive. The feet were almost always cold.

Gastric and intestinal disorders in children often date from the time of weaning, partly because at this time they are apt to be largely overfed with farinaceous foods (and it may be remarked that the phrase "food for infants," with which many farinaceous powders are labeled, has been the cause of very widespread mortality); partly because the change from human to cow's milk is often made abruptly and with little care to make the new diet a digestible one. The heavy curd of cow's milk is often difficult of digestion, even by children ten or twelve months old, who have been accustomed only to the breast; and unless measures be adopted to hinder the firm clotting of the casein, serious dangers may arise. Whatever may have been the cause of the disturbance in the case above narrated, a catarrh of the stomach had been set up which made the child incapable of digesting cow's milk; and the diet adopted as a substitute was one admirably devised for keeping up the derangement. Such a case, which is far from being an uncommon one, is readily treated, however severe may be the vomiting, by restricting the diet to equal parts of weak veal broth and thin barley-water, given cold in small quantities at a time; by warmth to the belly and extremities, by perfect quiet, and by suitable remedies. The best sedative is liquor arsenicalis—half a drop for the dose—given with a few grains of bicarbonate of soda in some aromatic water. After a few days of such treatment the power of digesting milk usually returns. But at first it should be given sparingly, freely diluted with barley-water, and only once or twice in the day.

Looseness of the bowels is a common consequence of milk-indigestion. The stools are not at first watery; for a time the motions are semi-solid and have the color and consistence of soft putty. They may have a faint sour, unpleasant smell, but are not necessarily very offensive. Occasionally the stools are streaked with green mucus, and sometimes with blood, on account of the straining exercised during their

expulsion. This condition of the bowels is accompanied by gradual loss of flesh. The child becomes at first flabby, then obviously wasted. If proper treatment be not resorted to, the case becomes one of obstinate chronic diarrhea, or else the child, in its weakly state, falls an easy victim to some intercurrent disease.

Such cases in the early stage—before a regular diarrhea is established—are often spoken of as cases of "inactive liver," the white stools being supposed to be merely the result of insufficient biliary secretion. Chologogues are, however, in such cases quite useless. A dose of gray powder produces perhaps one dark stool, but afterward the motions are of the same character as before. They are white, because they consist of curd mixed with the farinaceous matter, which is usually given in large quantities at the same time, and their character can only be improved by a complete change of diet. When a chronic diarrhea is regularly established, the cases are frequently called "consumption of the bowels." It is needless to say they have no relation at all to "consumption," but are a purely functional derangement—a chronic catarrh of the bowels excited and maintained by undigested food. The post-mortem appearances, except for the wasting of all the tissues, differ very little from those of health; but in long-standing cases we may find ulceration of the bowels. There is, however, no sign of gray tubercle.

Some years ago I saw in the country a little girl, aged fourteen months, who had been losing flesh gradually for two months. Her friends were in a state of great anxiety about her, as her father had died of consumption. The disease had begun with feverish symptoms and relaxed bowels and the motions had never since been healthy. During the greater part of her illness she had been fed with milk and sago—the latter in large quantities; but for a fortnight before my visit she had taken nothing but pure milk, fresh from the cow. This change in the diet had, however, produced no alteration in the symptoms. I found the child very flabby and pale, although to the eye not very thin. When she was quiet her face was placid looking. She perspired freely about the head and neck. Her fontanelle was of medium size, and not depressed. She had no teeth, and the gums were not at all full. The tongue was rather dry and drab-colored, with a little fur at the back. The abdomen was soft and rather full—not at all tender. The liver and spleen were of natural size, and no enlarged mesenteric glands could be felt. The child had not begun to walk when her illness began. Her joints were inclined to be large. The skin generally was harsh, but there was no loss of elasticity. Temperature in rectum 98°. She had a cough and a little dry and coarse bubbling rhonchus was heard about the back. The bowels were open four times a day. The motions were large, of the color of putty and consistence of soft paste, without offensive smell. The child appeared to have no pain, and, although rather fretful, was not very troublesome.

In this case there was evidently a certain amount of rickets present, shown by the profuse sweating of the head, the tendency to enlargement of the joints, the absence of teeth (at fourteen months), and the weakness of the lower extremities. The temperature, which was only 98° in the rectum (at about 3 o'clock P.M.), was almost sufficient by itself to exclude the notion of tuberculosis; but, besides this, the absence of any pinched look in the face and the elasticity of the skin—for in tuberculosis the loss of elasticity of

the skin is a marked symptom—enabled me to allay the chief anxiety of the mother. The case was evidently one of the class I am describing. The child, owing to a little intestinal catarrh, had a very limited power of digesting milk. The treatment was therefore obvious. Milk was almost entirely excluded from the diet, and the child was fed with whey and cream, veal broth and barley-water, yolk of egg, and "Mellin's food" dissolved in barley-water. She took at first an alkaline solution of iron, with half a drop of liquor arsenicalis, in each dose. This was afterward changed to quinine, dissolved in iron wine, and cod-liver oil; and it was not long before the child was convalescent.

In all cases of functional derangement in children the tendency is to recovery, if nature be allowed her way. This is especially true of derangements affecting the alimentary canal. If the irritant, whatever it may be, which is the cause of the disturbance be removed, the organs quickly resume the normal exercise of their functions. Unfortunately well meant efforts to relieve the distress are often themselves the cause of its continuance. The child is weakly and wasting, therefore he requires nourishment; but the utmost care must be exercised in selecting the kind of food to be given. To continue the supply of fermentable material, when the stomach and bowels are already filled with the products of fermentation, is a certain way of hindering the child's restoration to health. If, on the contrary, we cut off the supply of fermentable matter, unless the strength be too much reduced, recovery follows as a natural consequence. In such cases milk and the ordinary farinaceous foods must for a time be withdrawn from the diet. The best substitutes are those which have been mentioned, viz. weak veal broth and barley-water, in equal proportions; cream and whey, one dessertspoonful to four ounces; yolk of egg (beaten up, in the case of infants, with whey or veal broth); and Mellin's food for infants, dissolved in barley-water or in equal parts of this and whey. Veal broth or chicken broth is better than beef tea, for the latter is often irritating to the digestive organs of young children, especially if there be any diarrhea.

Sometimes, when cow's milk can not be digested, ass's or goat's milk is more successful; and sometimes a child much reduced by digestive disturbance dependent upon an unsuitable dietary at once recovers when put again to the breast. More often, however, milk of any kind seems to act as an irritant poison, and no hope of relief can be entertained until it is excluded from the diet.

A Premonitory Symptom of Uremia.—Dr. Ortelle states that uremia is one of the possible modes of termination of uterine cancer, occurring as a consequence of the obstruction of the ureters from the growth. A premonitory symptom of this condition is the sudden and total disappearance of all pain. Dr. Ortelle further asserts that uremia is not a poisoning—that is, an alteration localized in the blood or one of the principal tissues—but is a cachexia—that is, a general trouble involving all the organs.—*La France Medical; London Practitioner.*

Scarlatina from Infected Milk.—At Halifax an epidemic of scarlet fever has been traced to infected milk. Of the eighty-two families supplied by a certain milkman, forty-five were attacked. It was discovered that the milkman had five children ill of the disease at the time.—*Med. Times and Gazette.*

Antiseptic Inhalation in Pulmonary Affections.—J. G. Sinclair Coghill, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., in *British Medical Journal*:

The objects of treatment are: 1. To lessen secretion; 2. To promote evacuation of what secretion is formed; 3. To disinfect the air which may pass into surrounding or deeper healthy portions of the lungs. Again he says, "Besides acting as disinfectants, antiseptic inhalations promote expectoration by increased energy of expiratory acts." Dr. Burney Yeo also recommends antiseptic inhalations, "if they have only the effect of temporarily cleansing, as it were, the pulmonary surface. It is a process analogous to that of washing away the decomposing discharges of a foul superficial ulcer." Dr. Clifford Allbutt has broadly stated, and as truthfully, that "most physical patients die of septicemia; and the arrest of this daily re-poisoning is a primary object of treatment." Antiseptic inhalation again assumes a still more important position, if the latest pathological theory of the contagiousness of phthisis through the respired air be well founded. . . .

The apparatus is extremely simple. It consists of a space for a pledget of tow or cotton wool, inclosed between the perforated surface of the respirator and an inner perforated plate, which can be raised so as to permit the tow to be saturated with the antiseptic solution. Elastic loops are attached to pass over the ears and retain it in position. The inhaler may be procured either plain or of a slightly smaller size, and covered with black cloth for wearing out of doors. The pledget of tow, which may be changed once a week or so, sprinkled with from ten to twenty drops of the antiseptic solution, from a drop-stoppered vial, twice a day at least, according to the extent to which the inhaling may be carried on. Of this the patient is the best judge, and the length of time and quantity of solution should be regulated by tolerance and effect. The most important times for inhaling are for an hour or so before going to sleep at night, and after the morning expectoration, which leaves the suppurating surface or cavity dry to be acted upon—disinfected, so to speak—by the antiseptic vapor. A great many of my patients have of their own accord come to use the respirator almost continuously day and night from their experience of its good effects. I attach the utmost importance to the mode in which the respiration is conducted while inhaling. The patient should be carefully instructed to inspire through the mouth alone, and expire through the nose. In this way the breath is drawn through the saturated tow in the perforated chamber of the inhaler, and passes directly into the lungs laden with the antiseptic materials. Expiring through the nose only necessarily involves a complete circulation of the medicated air. The breathing should be short at the beginning of the inhalation, but gradually deepened, so as to displace and affect the residual air in the more distant portions of the lungs. This form of respiration itself is not only of great use in favoring the circulation of the blood in the lungs, and thus aiding both local and general nutrition through that fluid, but it helps very much the expulsion of the sputa by means of the increased energy and thoroughness of the expiratory acts. . . .

After many trials of the now formidable list of antiseptics, I find that carbolic acid, creasote, and iodine, in combination with sulphuric ether and rectified spirits of wine, are the most efficacious and satisfactory. The want of volatility in boracic, salicylic, and benzoic acids, and their salts, proves a bar to their

employment by this method. Dr. Horace Dobell, who has had a very favorable experience of this treatment, writes to me that he has found thymol, in the form of Shirley's thymoline, very grateful and efficient in many cases where the smell of carbolic acid and creasote was intolerable either to patients or to their friends. Of the three antiseptic agents I chiefly use, I find iodine most useful in the second stage of phthisis, when the expectoration is passing from the glairy into purulent character. I use tincture for inhaling purposes made with sulphuric ether instead of spirits of wine, and this ethereal solution has a singularly soothing effect on the cough and pulmonary irritation. In combination also with carbolic acid as carbolized iodine, or iodide phenol, it is extremely useful in the purulent expectoration accompanying the resolution of pneumonia, both catarrhal and croupous. In the stage of excavation, whether tubercular or pneumonic, the combination of iodine with carbolic acid and creasote is most potent. The acid seems to have the greater influence in checking the amount and purulent nature of the sputa; while creasote acts merely as a sedative in the cough, apparently by reducing the irritability of the pulmonary tissues. The addition also of varying proportions of sulphuric ether and chloroform greatly assists in soothing and allaying irritation. These combinations also act frequently like a charm in the profuse expectoration of purulent bronchitis, as also in bronchial asthma.

Removal of the Kidney for Nephrolithiasis.

—At the Charing-cross Hospital is a lad, aged fifteen, from whom Mr. Barwell removed a kidney on May 5th, and who is now convalescent. The boy had been under observation for about a year with pyelitis and retro-peritoneal abscess. An incision was made about ten months ago, with the effect of mitigating the symptoms. The wound had healed, leaving only a sinus. In April, by sounding through this passage, Mr. Barwell detected a stone. Yet although the lad was becoming very anemic, with irregular hectic temperature, no consent for operation could be obtained until the above date, when lumbar nephrectomy was performed. Two peculiarities rendered the removal unusually difficult—viz. the dense thick cicatricial tissue and the proximity of the rib to the ileum. Mr. Barwell cut through the tissues, and came upon the kidney with the stone impacted. An endeavor to extract this latter caused copious bleeding, hence the operator rapidly enucleated the gland and passed a ligature round the pedicle *en masse*. Since want of room forbade removing the kidney entire, it was divided and extracted in two parts. The operation was thus completed very quickly, and with scarcely any loss of blood. Since then the boy has been going on uninterruptedly well, his temperature becoming normal and regular, the wound being now nearly healed. This is, we believe, the second successful case of removal of the kidney for stone.—*London Lancet*.

Fallacious Tests for Spinal Caries.—By Howard Marsh, F.R.C.S. Eng., in British Med. Journal:

There are some tests of spinal caries in use which seem so untrustworthy that I feel justified in offering a strong caution against their use. These are:

1. The plan of tapping with the knuckles or dealing a slight but sudden blow with the closed hand on the spinous processes of the suspected vertebræ. This proceeding is very likely to make a child or an hysterical adult shrink, even though the spine is perfectly

sound; while, on the other hand, as the blow is struck at right angles to the long axis of the spine, it can have very little effect in bringing vertebræ which may happen to be tender into firmer contact with each other, so as to produce pain by their sudden mutual compression. Moreover the force of the blow, as it is transmitted through the spinous processes, laminae, and articular processes, is apt to be dissipated before it reaches the bodies of the vertebræ—the parts in which disease is so commonly situated. Some surgeons, I am aware, deal the blow on the top of the head; but this may assuredly be dangerous in disease of the cervical vertebræ; while, owing to the formation of the spine as a series of blocks, and to the elasticity of the intervertebral disks the effect of any slight concussion is lost before it can reach the lower regions of the spine. I have frequently seen patients wince under this test, although their spines were quite healthy. I have also often found that it produced no complaint in cases in which angular curvature was plainly marked. This test of jarring the spine is in fact as deceptive, and therefore as bad, as is that of tapping the knee or heel in suspected disease of the hip-joint. Children with hip-disease may very often be seen who make no complaint whatever when the hip is thus even forcibly jarred; while on the other hand, the jar causes in some cases severe and quite unnecessary suffering—unnecessary because painless and more reliable signs are within reach.

2. Another symptom on which some observers lay much stress is tenderness, or increased sensitiveness, found over the spinous processes, corresponding to the carious vertebræ; and I have seen this over-sensitiveness searched for by means of a hot sponge. I believe this test is quite untrustworthy. Tenderness or over-sensitiveness is a very common feature in cases of hysterical-spine, and certainly tenderness is often absent when caries is distinctly in progress.

Fatal Result from the Application of Sayre's Jacket.

—The patient, a child, suffered from a considerable kyphosis at about the junction of the dorsal and cervical vertebræ. It was restless during the suspension; suddenly the breathing stopped. Immediate tracheotomy showed the trachea free down to its bifurcation, and consciousness could not be restored. The breathing was stertorous, and the child died one and a half hours after the suspension. The autopsy revealed a very marked angular curvature of the spine and a very large abscess reaching to the mediastinum.—*Sonnenburg—Proceedings of German Surgical Society; Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift; Maryland Med. Journal*.

The Administration of Purgatives by Hypodermic Injection.

—Much attention has been directed in Germany and Italy to finding some means of replacing tartar emetic, ipecacuanha, and saline and vegetable purgatives of all kinds, by simple hypodermic injections of apomorphia and aloin (the alkaloid of socotrine aloes). Just as with a subcutaneous injection of apomorphia effects of nausea and vomiting have been obtained, so with a warm aqueous solution of aloin (one twenty-fifth) injected in the thigh or forearm, there have soon been produced true symptoms of purgation. In these cases the remedy does not act by direct contact with the gastrointestinal mucous membrane. These, as *Paris Mdicale* says, are very singular facts which call for serious study and verification.—*Med. Press and Circular*.